THE POLYNESIAN.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, AT HONOLULU, OAHU, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

J. J. JARVES, Editor.] SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1844. [NEW SERIES, Vol. 1.—No. 25.

POETRY.

THE NEWS.

We extract the following from an admirable Poem, entitled "Curiosity." It was delivered at Cambridge, before the Phi Beta Kappa Society, August 27, 1829—by Charles Sprague.

The News! our morning, noon, and evening cry;
Day unto day repeats it till we die.
For this the cit, the critic, and the fop
Dally the hour away in Tonsor's shop;
For this the gossip takes her daily route,
And wears your threshold and your patience out;
For this we leave the parson in the lurch,
And pause to prattle on the way to church;
Even when some coffined friend we gather round,
We ask, "What news?" then lay him in the ground;
To this the breakfast owes its sweetest zest,
For this the dinner cools, the bed remains unpressed.

What gives each tale of scandal to the street,
The kitchen's wonder and the parlor's treat?
See the pert house-maid to the key-hole fly,
When husband storms, wife frets, or lovers sigh;
See Tom your pockets ransack for each note,
And reads your secrets while he cleans your coat;
See, yes, to listen see even Madam deign,
When the smug sempstress pours her ready strain.
This wings the lie that malice breeds in fear,
No tongue so vile but finds a kindred ear;
Swift flies each tale of laughter, shame, or folly,
Caught by Paul Pry and carried home to Polly;
On this each foul calumniator leans,
And nods and hints the villany he means;
Full well he knows that latent wildfire lies
In the close whisper and the dark surmise;
A muffled word, a wordless wink has woke
A warmer throb than if a Dexter spoke;
And he, o'er Everett's periods who would nod,
To track a secret half the town has trod.

SELECTIONS

FROM PAPERS RECEIVED BY OVERLAND MAIL, VIA MEXICO.

From the Baltimore American.

Morse's Magnetic Telegraph.

The perfect success of Professor Morse's Electro Magnetic Telegraph has excited the astonishment and admiration of the community. The most incredulous have been convinced, and occuring at the time they have done, the experiments have satisfied the public that the Magnetic Telegraph is not merely a beautiful illustration of a philosophical principle, but an agent that may be made of practical and every day utility in the business transactions of the country. The long list of officers of the Democratic convention was published in the Capitol at Washington as soon as it was announced in Baltimore, the only time lost being that occupied in the passage of the messenger from the room of the Convention to the office of the Telegraph, in the Pratt-street Depot. The ballottings were communicated with the same rapidity, and the expectant throng of politicians who surrounded the Professor's room in the Capitol were made aware of the result of each, as soon as it was known at the door of the Odd Fellows' Hall in Gay-street in this city. Then again the nomination of Mr. Wright was declined by him within fifteen minutes after it was made, and the reiterated assertion made known, and again declined, and had Mr. Wright been in New Orleans instead of Washington, the intervals of intercourse between him and the convention would have been quite as brief.

All this is calculated to put us upon the enquiry into the future agency of the wonderful contrivance which thus, without metaphor, annihilates both time and space. It has been said that the railroad system has given a perpetuity to our Union which it would not otherwise possess—and that with iron bonds is our country bound together.—But the day of iron bars must yield to to that of copper wires. What difficulty does extent of territory present to permanency of government, but the delay and inconvenience of transmitting intelligence from one portion of it to another—intelligence between men in business, and between the Executive and its officers? Suppose the line of wires to extend to Oregon, and a squadron lay off the mouth of the Columbia, which it was desired to order home, or to send to Honolulu. The Secretary of the Navy could receive the answer that all hands were piped to weigh anchor before the ink with which he signed the order, if he wrote a heavy hand, had dried upon the paper. If a vessel bound for an Atlantic port had backed her topsail in the midst of the squadron, the Commodore migh ask & receive permision for an officer to return in her before her yards could be braced round, and her sails sheeted home; for the rate of electricity is 130,000 miles in a second, and at this speed would the correspondence between Washington and Oregon be carried on. Startling as such statements appear, no one can gainsay them who will see what has deen doing daily for a week past at the Pratt-street depot. Instances might be multiplied without end of the availability of the Magnetic Telegraph of Professor Morse.

Of such an invention as that in question our readers must of course desire to know something, and we believe that the following account of its origin and mode of action will be found correct.

There are few persons who have not seen an electrical machine, & witnessed the spark which passes from it in action, to any blunt object which is presented to it. The accumulation of electricity in the machine caused by turning the cylinder or plate has the same tendency to pass to an object which has less electricity, that air has to rush into a vacuum or water to seek a level—electricity, like air or water seeking to establish an equilibrium. Besides the mode of producing electricity by friction, as in the common electrical machine, it is also produced by the action of an acid upon plates of different metals properly attached together—a fact discovered by the person whose name is perpetuated in the word *Galvanism*. The mode in common use of producing galvanic action, is to immerse the plates in a trough with separate divisions—at one end of which the supply of electric fluid generated by the action of the acid is in excess.—This end of the trough or battery is callen the positive, and the other end the negative pole of the battery. Now, if a wire attached to one end is brought near to a wire proceeding from the other end, the electricity passes from the positive to the negative pole, and a spark is seen, like that proceeding from the common electrical machine, which is the electricity seeking to establish an equilibrium. If the two wires are kept in contact, there is a *stream* of electric fluid passing from one to the other, which is kept up by the action of the acid on the metallic plates already mentioned. Now, the ordinary length of these wires, in a common Galvanic battery is but a few feet; but they may be a thousand or a hundred thousand miles in length, and the effect of bringing them in contact with one another is still the same—that is, the flow through their entire length of a stream of electricity at the rate already mentioned. If therefore the machine or battery is in Washington, and a wire from the positive pole is brought to Baltimore and carried back to Washington, the end of it brought in contact with the wire at the negative pole, which is a few feet long, will cause a stream of electricity to flow from Washington to Baltimore and back again along the wire; and it is this wire coming here and going back, which is to be seen on the posts in Prat-street, the *two* wires there visible being in fact but the opposite sides of a loop of wire which would be eighty miles in length were it extended. And this is the first thing to be understood.

Now it is known that a piece of soft iron bent into the shape of a horse-shoe or the letter U, becomes a magnet so long as a stream of electricity is passing through wire wrapped around it; and the wire from the positive pole of the battery, after coming to Baltimore, is wraped here round a piece of iron of the proper shape, and then goes back to Washington. To make this iron a magnet, therefore, in Baltimore, it is only necessary to connect the ends of the wires in Washington, when so long as they are connected, the stream of electricity which passes along them produces the desired effect upon the iron. When the connection is interrupted the iron ceases to be magnetic, and is like any other piece of soft iron. This magnet which the professor has the power to create at pleasure, is his prime mover.—Immediately over the magnet, say in Baltimore, is a brass lever, with a piece of iron attached to it, which is brought within a quarter of an inch, or less, of the horse-shoe.

As soon as this last is made a magnet by uniting the ends of the wire at Washington, it attracts the iron on the lever and draws one end of the lever down, causing, at the same time, the opposite end to rise. At this opposite end is the pen or *stylus*, which is of steel about an inch long, and about the size of a knitting needle. Immediately over it is a brass cylinder with a grove around it, into which the *stylus* strikes when the magnet attracts the other end of the lever. Not far from this roller are two others revolving in contact, like the rollers used in drawing out cotton prior to spinning it in a cotton mill, motion being given to them by a very simple clock work moved by a weight. The office of these two rollers is to draw from another roller, and under the groved roller a strip of paper which is wound round it like a ribband on its centre block. With these explanations the operation of the machine can be readily understood. When the professor in Washington wishes to send a letter to Baltimore, he spells it with letters composed of dots and lines—for instance A may be a dot and a line, thus .——; B two dots and a line, thus . . ——; C a line and a dot, thus —— . . By connecting the ends of the wires for an instant only, a dot is made by the pressure of the stylus upon the paper which is passing over the groved cylinder; a line is formed by letting the ends of the wires remain in contact for a longer time, when the stylus is kept pressed on the moving paper. The writing when completed resembles the raised characters used in the instruction of the blind, only instead of a common alphabet, an alphabet of dots and lines of different combinations is made use of.

The mode of connecting the wires as required is very simple. One of them is kept always immersed in a cup of murcury into which the other is dipped whenever it is desired to send a current of electricity through the entire circuit, the fluid metal forming a conductor between the ends. The operation of writing consists in pressing a button, to which the ends of the wires in use is attached, in the manner in which a single key of a piano is struck by the finger, with a succession of rapid or prolonged strokes as dots or lines are required to be formed.—We have spoken of the stylus as a single piece of iron, but it is in fact composed of three, like a three-pronged fork so that each letter is made in triplicate.

As already stated, the paper is drawn over the groved roller against which the stylus presses, by two rollers which are set in motion by a simple clock-work, which, in its turn, is started by the first stroke of the lever—a detent, or catch being withdrawn like the detent of a stop watch; and so long as the writing is going on, the detent is kept back, and when the writing is done, the detent falling into its place stops the clock-work, and the paper ceases to move. The first stroke of the lever also rings a little bell which calls the attention of the attendant to the machine. The whole machinery does not occupy a space of more than one foot by two.

In the foregoing our purpose has been to make such an explanation as will gratify the curiosity of unscientific readers, and, pretending to no accurate philosophical knowledge, we may doubtless have exposed ourself to the criticisms of those who possess it.

We have described the mode of working the machinery, so to speak, now used, but we understand that there are others, which would enable those who want the experience of Professor Morse, and his polite assistant, Mr. Vale, who is at the Baltimore end, to write, by striking keys arranged like those of a piano, and marked with the letters of the common alphabet—the effect being produced by the passage of arms over projections on a cylinder, after the manner of a hand organ or music box.

The only remaining matter to be noticed is the mode in which it is proposed to make the Magnetic Telegraph generally useful for business purposes. Let us suppose for instance, that it extended from New York to New Orleans. John Smith, in New York wants to buy of James Brown in New Orleans, 500 bales of cotton at 8 cents per lb. He writes accordingly the following letter: "James Brown—buy 500 bales of cotton at 8cts., John Smith." He folds it, directs it and sends it to the Post Office marked 'Magnetic Telegraph.'

Here it is at once sent to the room of the clerk of the Telegraph, who opens it and writes the contents to New Orleans, where a clerk in attendance at the Post Office at that end of the wires, puts the letter into common writing, seals and directs it to John Smith, and sends it off immediately by a messenger in waiting. But cotton is 10 cts. per lb., and so James Brown writes back—"John Smith, cotton 10 cts., James Brown." To which Smith answers—"James Brown, buy at 10 cts., John Smith." And all this is done between New Orleans and New York in the space of half an hour, allowing time for the passage of the letters from the offices to the counting houses of Smith and Brown. Or if it is desired that the correspondence should not be known, Smith and Brown may agree upon a combination of dots and lines differing from the combination of Professor Morse, and then upon sending the letter in some such shape as this—"John Smith.—— | . . . | ——.—— | . —. | —. . . | .—— | ——— | . ——— | ——— . . | —James Brown," to the offices, the cipher would be copied and sent to New Orleans, when the Clerk would send the slip of paper unwound from the machine to the counting house of Smith—and so the letter would give information to no one but the person for whom it was intended. For each letter of the alphabet employed, government would receive, say one cent, so that the first of the above letters would cost 39 cents; the answer to it 30 cents, and the reply 28 cents.

We cannot close this notice without expressing our conviction that among the most important discoveries of the present day is the Electro Magnetic Telegraph, and that among the most distinguished public benefactors Professor Morse, the inventor of it, will be ranked hereafter.

Scientific.—We find the following important item in the selections of the Boston Post, from a file of prpers received at that office:— "*Important Invention.*—The Parisian savans have lately been thrown into a high state of excitement by the announcement of a new application of the galvanic current. Mr. Frickandeau de Huiterville, the distinguished chemist, has taken out a patent for separating oysters from their shells by the action of a battery on any given or required number of plates, from one upwards. The process is very intelligible.—The operator places himself before a broad shelf or counter, on the inner side of which a quantity of the mallusca are deposited in the crude state. At the word 'plate,' the assistant places a small dish or plate of porcelain before him, in an oblong or circular shape, (either, it is said, will do); Into this the professor pours a little diluted acetic acid, or common vinegar, adding sometimes a few drops of the malum citreum, or lemon juice. He then puts himself in communication with the assistant by placing on the shelf a piece of silver, in direct proportion to the size of which will be the duration and intensity of the action. A piece equivalent in value to the eighth of a Spanish dollar, it is ascertained, will deposite a dozen oysters in the raw state, i. e. 'naked natives,' in the dish, which thus becomes the positive, or more properly, the depositive pole; when no silver is used the assistant remains negative, and the separation does not take place. In most of the experiments, a small sprinkling of 'piper niger,' the 'black pepper' of the kitchen, is shaken over to give pungency to the effect. It is hardly necessary to add that the supply of acid may be increased at discretion. Owing, probably to the lime present in the shells, a great deal of lightness is given out, which is felt chiefly in the operator's purse; sometimes, if the experimennt is much protracted, to a degree almost painful. The oysters may be freely eaten during the progress of the deposition, care being taken, however, by the manipulator to subject those whose appearance leads him to suspect any thing, to the test afforded by the olfactory nerve. The simplicity of this process has already given it great popularity, and will no doubt obtain for it a permanent rank in gastronomical practise. Mr. Fricandeau, the inventor, has become quite the rage with the inhabitants of the gay capital. No nobleman thinks his dinner complete without him, and the cafes all over the city, it is said, ring with his name. Every lover of science will of course take the first opportunity of carefully trying the experiment, and comparing it with the old way. For our part, we confess our inability at present to see any difference between them."

A husband in Philadelphia advertises his wife, and says that he will pay no debts of her contracting. The amiable lady replies that people need not be alarmed, as he pays *no debts of any kind*, Wonder how the husband feels *now*.

"I can take no pleasure in you when you are in one of your snappish ways," as the rat said to the steel-trap.